

CASE #: 82000421
TYPE : Criminal Sexual Conduct
PLACE : Minneapolis, Minnesota
DATE : October 18, 1982
AGENT: Paul N. Gerber

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
BUREAU OF CRIMINAL APPREHENSION
1246 UNIVERSITY AVENUE, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55104

CONTINUATION OF INVESTIGATION REPORT

ACTIVITY

On October 18, 1982, Special Agents Paul N. Gerber and Patrick L. Shannon initiated contact at the Children's Theatre, soliciting their cooperation in the investigation of JOHN CLARK DONAHUE.

OFFICERS

MN BCA Special Agents Patrick L. Shannon and Paul N. Gerber.

DETAILS

1. At approximately 12:00 Noon on October 18, 1982, Special Agents Paul N. Gerber and Patrick L. Shannon stopped at the Children's Theatre and met with Sarah Lawless, Executive Director, Children's Theatre, Minneapolis, Minnesota. This meeting had been pre-arranged, telephonically, by Special Agent Patrick L. Shannon.
2. Sarah Lawless is identified as the executive director and in charge of administrative duties at the Children's Theatre. One of her primary functions is fund raising and publicity for the Children's Theatre.
3. Since Sarah Lawless is a peer of JOHN CLARK DONAHUE and responsible for the administration of the Children's Theatre, she was the likely individual to initiate contact with in regard to entrance to the files of the Children's Theatre.
4. Special Agents Patrick L. Shannon and Paul N. Gerber met with Sarah Lawless at a luncheon setting; whereupon, she was briefed as to the nature of the criminal investigation regarding JOHN CLARK DONAHUE and the course the criminal investigation was expected to take. Special Agents Patrick L. Shannon and Paul N. Gerber explained that they were extremely sensitive to the position the Theatre might find itself in, and stated that the contact was spawned out of concern for the Theatre's reputation and well-being. It was further stated, by the special agents, that it would be in the best interest of Sarah Lawless to contact legal counsel for the Children's Theatre in that special agents would be requesting certain information out of their administrative files to fully identify alleged victims of JOHN CLARK DONAHUE who were former students at the Children's Theatre.
5. During the course of the interview, Sarah Lawless admitted that she had heard the rumors about JOHN CLARK DONAHUE's alleged sexual interaction as a homosexual with juvenile males and had confronted DONAHUE on the issue. JOHN CLARK DONAHUE had emphatically denied that he had been sexually active with any of the children at the Theatre and stated that his same-sex interaction was exclusively with consenting adults. At the completion of the luncheon meeting, Special Agents Patrick Shannon and Paul N. Gerber provided their phone numbers to Sarah Lawless, advising that they were a 24-hour service number. We encouraged further contact between the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension and the Children's Theatre and encouraged another meeting in the near future, with legal counsel representing the Children's Theatre.
6. Investigation continues.

EXHIBIT A

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